GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3307
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2004
OVER PRICING OF DRUGS & HOSPITALS AIDS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many drugs and hospital aids in the market are over priced;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this overpricing;

(d) whether there is any formal committee to look into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves, however, the Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

(d) & (e) A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) has been constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of the National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Supreme Court in Special Leave Petition (SLP) No. (C) 3668/2003 and to suggest measures for fulfilling the objective of the National Common Minimum Programme to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. This Committee has submitted its interim report to the Government.